IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application of: |) |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| HITCHINS et al. |) Art Unit: |
| Serial No.: Unassigned |)) |
| Filed: November 9, 1999 | Examiner: |
| For: PLUNGER SYSTEMS |) |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the attached Forms PTO-1449 may be deemed to be relevant to the patentability of the above-identified application, and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

The Forms PTO-1449 attached hereto list references that were made of record in parent Application Serial No. 09/239,164. Consequently, copies thereof are present in the parent application file and are not submitted herewith. 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98(d); MPEP Section 609. If for some reason copies of the above-listed items are not present in the parent application file, Applicants will provide copies thereof for the Examiner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the application, and NO FEE is due for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial copies of the attached Forms PTO-1449 to show consideration of the references, and to return the initialed forms to the undersigned counsel.

Dated: November 9, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Mailing Label No.: EL104099357US. Date of Deposit: November 9, 1999. I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

VI/96-033.D.C/Ids